on year growth in credit to SMEs. The salient features of the Policy Package are fixing of self-targets for financing to SME sector by banks, measures to rationalize the cost of loans, increase the outreach of formal credit, cluster based approach for financing and debt restructuring mechanism and a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for SME sector. Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in this regard advising all banks to implement the policy measures.

(c) and (d) The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council in the National Strategy for Manufacturing has made various recommendations for extending credit to SSIs which include ensuring better credit delivery to the SSI sector by RBI, a target role for SIDBI in direct lending to SSI sector, a separate law for small enterprises including a chapter on provision to credit to the SSIs, steps to encourage credit rating of small enterprises, etc. Besides the above Policy Package, **a** Small and Medium Enterprises Rating Agency for encouraging credit rating of small enterprises has been launched.

Report on Security Related Expenditure by Punjab

3252. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group constituted to determine the security related expenditure incurred by the State Government of Punjab during the period of militancy in the State, for the purpose of granting debt relief to that State, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recornmendations made therein and the amount of outstanding debts incurred by that State on this account indicating the steps taken and being taken in the light of their report; and

(c) if not, what progress has so far been made by the Working Group and by when the report of the Group is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Working Group constituted to determine the security related expenditure incurred by the State Government of Punjab during the period of Militancy has submitted the report which is under consideration of Govt, of India.